

Tahir

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Michelle Johnston

## The puzzling photo



Another gallery visit and this time you and your group had spent all your visit watching a video and studying the many paintings that were on the wall in just one room. However it was a photo hanging in the café that prompted the most discussion, the photo of the three figures in coloured outfits standing on boxes. The discussion started with a debate about whether the person above No. 2 was a boy or a girl. You were sure it was a girl – ‘because she is wearing pink’. What about the person in red – was this a boy or a girl? ‘A boy’. Why? ‘because he is wearing red’. So then we studied their faces – they were identical – perhaps the person in pink was a boy after all – perhaps they were twins we pondered. Then we started talking about the boy on No. 1. Why was he in the middle? ‘Because he was the tallest’, you said. And so the discussion went on.

**What interested me most about this discussion** isn’t whether we came to an agreement about the answers to our questions but the quality of engagement that you and your group had while studying this huge photo hanging on the wall behind us. You were making certain assumptions about the figures in the photo, and yet when I challenged you to study the photo carefully, you responded and I could see uncertainty start to creep in! You were able to handle the challenge positively and start to question your own position. This is what coming to the art gallery is all about – being challenged, using that superpower brain of yours and seeing the world in a different way.